



A New Spirit

February 2012

North Kingstown United Methodist Church
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Rev. Lorene E. Eldredge, Pastor

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES for SPIRITUAL GROWTH

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN PROGRAMS

In December the Administrative Council voted to suspend all business meetings during Lent to give people time to participate in Lenten programs for spiritual growth. On six Wednesday evenings during Lent the following opportunities will be offered. They will be independent of one another and offer a variety of experiences. You are invited to participate in one or in all of the evenings starting at 7PM.

February 22 – Ash Wednesday Service

February 29 - Resurrection Routines *or* Holy Habits – The Spiritual Disciplines of Lent

March 7 – Connecting with the Spirit - Being Still Before God.

(You might want to wear loose clothing and bring a yoga mat.)

March 14 – Portraits of Jesus - Art Through the centuries

March 21 – Create In Me a Clean Heart – The Writings of CS Lewis

March 28 – Where in the World is God?

SOUP & SPIRIT LUNCHEONS

Wednesdays at Noon

Sponsored by the Ecumenical Churches of North Kingstown

“Sacred Hymns of Lent”

February 29 – North Kingstown United Methodist Church, 450 Boston Neck Road

March 7 – St Paul’s Episcopal, 55 Main Street

March 14 - First Baptist Church in Wickford, 44 Main Street

March 21 - First Baptist Church of North Kingstown, 1135 Tower Hill Road

March 28 - St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church, Parish Center, 415 Tower Hill Road

April 4 – St Francis de Sales, 381 School Street

APRIL 1st - APRIL 8th HOLY WEEK

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Lent in the ancient church was a time to prepare for baptism and to re-examine the spiritual practices of the faith. We are preparing to print a Lenten Devotional. Mark Zaccaria is looking for writers.

February Calendar

			1 9:45 Study 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 7:00 Trustees	2 12 Ladies Fellowship 6:00 NK Land Conservancy 6:30 Scouts	3 7:00 Confirmation Class	4
5 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10 Communion 10:15 Sunday School 5:00 Youth Group	6 6:30 Shepherding 6:45 Scouts 6:45 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study 7 Photo Guild	7 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	8 9:45 Study 7:00 SPRC	9 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 6:30 Scouts 7:00 Finance	10	11 9:00 Valentine's Day Brunch 5:00 Pasta Dinner & Talent Show
Pastor Lori in Washington, DC						
12 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	13 6:30 Shepherding 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Scouts 7:00 Bible Study	14 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	15 9:45 Study 4:45 Scouts 5:00 Scouts 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AdMin	16 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 5:30 Wedding Rehearsal 6:30 Scouts	17 Newsletter Deadline- All events for March	18 9:30 UMW 2:30 Wedding
19 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	20 6:30 Shepherding 7:00 Bible Study	21 10:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA	22 9:45 Study 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	23 12:00 Ladies Fellowship 4:00 Blood Drive	24	25
26 8:00 Communion 9:15 Adult SS 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday School	27 6:30 Shepherding 6:30 Scouts 6:45 Scouts 7:00 Bible Study	28 10 Staff Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 7:00 AA 7:00 Scout Leaders	29 9:45 Study 12:00 Lenten Lunch 6:30 Scouts 7:00 Lenten Program			

“Come, now is the time to worship.
Come, now is the time to give your heart...”
by Brian Doerksen

What a beautiful day God has created! The sky is blue, the air crisp and the temperatures cool but comfortable. There are even a few birds at the feeder. I want to be outside, walking and breathing in the fresh air. I want to feel God’s presence with me as I am present in and to the world around me. If I am to enjoy this day outside then I have to get out there and participate with God and creation. I can’t be passive or I’ll miss out on whatever blessings God has in store for me today. What I get out of this day is very similar to sitting in the Foxboro stadium watching a Patriot’s game as opposed to watching the game on the television, or even listening to the radio. And it is the same with worship.

Worship is a participatory! Relationships are participatory. As believers in the body of Christ we are to be in relationship. [Can you imagine a relationship you never put any effort into? It would not last for long!] Worship was never intended to be a passive event. Scripture relates the Hebrew people going into the temple with lyre and tambourine, with dancing and song. It was a joyous occasion! Medieval mystic Hildegard von Bingen wrote, “The prophetic spirit orders that God be praised with cymbals of jubilation and with the rest of musical instruments which the wise and studious have created, since all of the arts... are brought to life by the breath of life which God breathed into the body of man...” [Letters to the Prelates of Mainz, 1178] Worship is more than music and dance, however. It is the context of Word and Sacrament. It is the primary place the community gathers as the body of Christ, according to God’s command!

Worship, however, is the center of conflict for many present-day congregations. The conflict is usually centered on form, traditional versus contemporary. The word contemporary, applied to worship, refers to a form of worship appealing to 50 “somethings.” If we want to appeal to younger peoples [20-40] we need to speak a different language, we need to talk about “seeker” worship. Seekers are those who have left the church, or have never been to church, for a myriad of reasons - one being they can’t relate to it and find it irrelevant. An example is my 32 year old niece, who left the church as a teenager. She has rejected the church for years and is just now as a young mother beginning to understand and express her faith. But she is not expressing it the way I would have 30 years ago. We talk about faith with a completely different language. She is a seeker. In some seeker-sensitive worship services invocations, benedictions, creeds, the Lord’s Prayer have all been eliminated as the language is not relevant.

Seeker worship has a lot to teach traditional congregations, and vice versa. There is a lot to be gained with technology in worship; there’s a lot to be gained in maturing in faith and understanding that comes from the wisdom of the ancient church. Can we envision a church where there is acceptance for multiple forms of worship? Can we envision worship in which we can all have an experience of God and receive the nourishment and incentive to serve God more fully in the world and week ahead?

I am blessed that the church that taught me the definition of a sacrament, “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace,” has also taught me that God’s presence and blessing is not limited to two, seven or even seventy seven worship forms. My prayer is that we may be accepting of multiple worship forms, that we be willing to lead in multiple worship forms, that we may be truly inviting to everyone, and that we may all experience God in worship and offer up our praise!

Lectioary Reading for February

February 5 –

Texts: Isaiah 40: 21-31; Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23; Mark 1: 29-39

February 12 – SCOUTING SUNDAY –

Texts: 2 Kings 5: 1-14; Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27; Mark 1: 40-45

Sermon: Lepers Among Us

February 19 - TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY –

Text: 2 Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6; 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; Mark 9: 2-9

Sermon: Taken Up

February 22 - ASH WEDNESDAY

Texts: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51: 1-17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b- 6: 10; Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

February 26 – First Sunday in Lent

Texts: Genesis 9: 8-17; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 9- 15

Sermon: Promises, Promises, Part 1

TWO FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

4th ANNUAL “ROSE AND A KISS FOR EVERY LADY” VALENTINE’S DAY BRUNCH

The great cooks in the United Methodist Men will be hosting Valentine’s Day Brunch on Saturday, February 11th, at 9AM. The menu includes fruit cocktail, omelets (choice of ham, cheese, onions, and/or peppers), breakfast casserole (choice of ham or sausage), quiche (choice of bacon or sausage), scrambled eggs, sausage links, orange juice, and coffee. Why go anywhere else? Come, have a wonderful breakfast and receive a rose and a kiss.♥ Please sign-up in the Narthex.

Youth Group Talent Show and Spaghetti Dinner Benefitting the Mission Trip

Also, Saturday, February 11th, is the annual Youth Pasta Dinner & Talent Show. You can participate by signing up to perform a talent at the show. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Dinner is served at 5PM and the Talent Show starts at 6PM. You can buy your tickets from the youth or at the door: \$10 for a family; \$5 for individuals. Join us for a fun night!



SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER FOR THE NK FOOD PANTRY

Tuesday, February 7th from 5:00 -8:00PM

St. Paul’s Parish House, 76 Main St. Wickford

Food by the Beach Rose Café

Music by Lizzie James & Greystone Rail

Suggested Donation \$10

For info, call Patrick Green, 294-4357, or stop by the Beach Rose Cafe

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

If worship or church activities are cancelled or postponed due to hazardous weather conditions, we will make every effort to notify you by through the Rhode Island Broadcasters channels, email, facebook, and a few by telephone. In all cases we expect everyone to use their common sense regarding travel conditions.

Please, be safe!



SPIRITUAL FORMATION FAMILY EVENTS

MARCH 4th

**Jim Hendricks, Christian pianist,
will be with us in worship and then in concert.
Plan to join us at 4PM for a time of uplifting music
and spiritual refreshment!**

We are opening this event to the community and district.

Pianist Jim Hendricks intrigued musicians and family members as a child with the uncanny ability to play anything he heard on records and memorize any printed music that came across the piano. While still in grammar school, Jim was able to transcribe by ear complex harmonies and melodies – without the use of a piano. He continued intensive musical studies and was considered a professional as a teenager.

After high school, Jim performed with such legends as Dave Brubeck, Della Reese, Rita Moreno, Arturo Sandoval, Jon Faddis, and many others. He also competed in international piano competitions and was a featured orchestral soloist, performing the piano music of Rachmaninoff. By the age of twenty-five, Jim had accepted a professorship in the piano department of Chicago State University.

While on tour with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Jim realized he was not using his talents for God's glory. Already being a dedicated Christian for many years, Jim knew it was time to leave the secular music world and follow God's calling into Christian ministry.

He has played at the Chrystal Cathedral. He has made thirteen piano recordings, performed on ABC, CBS, TBN and PAX, and authored the book *Contemporary Arrangements for Today's Church Pianist*.

An invitation has been sent to the RISEM District Churches inviting them to join with us for this time of fellowship and spiritual enrichment. A free will offering will be taken to support the Jim Hendricks Ministries.

MARCH 25th
Dinner and a Movie
Exploring 'Jesus Christ Superstar' (two versions: 1973 & 2003)
Led by Cynthia Zerquera.

There will be more details in the March newsletter.





February Anniversaries	
7	Bob and Nancy Mason
18	Rick and Pat Powers
20	Tom and Lesly Choinski
21	Robert and Sandra Brown

February Birthdays	
1	Caitlin Hickey Robert Lindberg
2	Joan Hickey
4	Caleb Bailey
6	Katherine Renehan Donald Dunning, Jr.
8	Devyn Cairns
9	Jonathan Dunne Ellen Jacke Isabella Pardo Peter Pellegrino
13	Melvoid Benson
14	Christopher Hartman Ethan Bowe
16	Debra Lindberg
17	Talia DeMarco Jacquelyn Monahan
18	Paul Morrison Caleb Sligar
19	Justin Morrison Kim Page
20	Kyle Kessel Lillian Williamson
21	Christopher Davis Matthew Smith
22	Barbara Davis
23	Ken Young
25	Matthew Beatty Jay Sperry
26	Alyssa Powers
28	Lynn Beatty Rachelle Dunning
29	Elizabeth Kelly

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

NK Meals on Wheels needs a driver to deliver meals to the homebound. Routes generally take an hour, and volunteers deliver on a specific day two times a month. There is also a need for substitutes who can help on an as needed basis. To volunteer or for more information, call Martha Parks at 294-6362.



Odyssey Hospice, is seeking volunteers to provide companionship to terminally ill patients. Help us; help our patients to reach the end of their lives peacefully, pain free and with dignity. If you have compassion, a desire to help others and an hour a week to share with a patient, become an Odyssey Hospice companion volunteer.



Hospice Volunteers

Please call/email Odyssey Hospice (401) 738-1492 and ask for Samantha Koehler, Manager of Volunteer Services or skoehler@odsyhealth.com

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence is offering several training Opportunities, including *Technology and Internet Safety*, *Leap into Teen Dating Violence Prevention*, *Domestic Violence 101*, *Coping with Other People's Trauma*, *The Art and Craft of Message*, *Empowerment Advocacy*, *Best Practices for Working with Military Families*, and *In Her Shoes*. All Trainings will take place at the Elizabeth Buffum Chase Center, 821 West Shore Road. To register and/or get more information, call Anayra Garcia at 467-9940 or visit www.ricadv.org/trainings.

THE HIDDEN WISDOM OF CREATION

There is a stark beauty to the winter woods that I lately have come to appreciate. It began with my first winter hike on Mount Chocorua where, on a crystal clear day on a snow and ice covered mountain, we could see forever. I saw in a wholly different way a mountain that I had climbed dozens of times in the summer. The clear air, the absence of leaves, the white and the shadows in the snow, revealed the structure and contours of the land in ways I had never seen before. Walking in the winter woods has become a delight, revealing what had been hidden. Rock walls unveil a farm from long ago. A cellar hole appears, exposing a long gone home. A once concealed spring reveals the beginning of a rivulet that becomes a stream that feeds a lake.

I love the energy, the opportunities, the diversity of cities. It challenges me. But, in our increasingly urbanized, 'developed,' paved over world, our connection to the earth is often obscured. I find that I need the hidden wisdom of creation. It gives me perspective. It steadies me.

Several lots down the street from one of my churches there was a stately oak tree. Nearly 100 feet tall, with a trunk easily four feet in diameter, it was massive! It stood on a small rise, exposed to ocean winds and storms. The tree dominated the area. From my Study, I could see and admire the majesty of the tree. But it was in the winter, when the leaves were gone, that I could really appreciate the tree. You could see where it had been wounded and where, from broken limbs, new branches had grown and new majesty had formed.

Over time the tree became for me a source of perspective and a root of wisdom. In many respects it became my Spiritual Director. In times of brokenness, either my own or that of the people to whom I ministered, the tree taught me that new life could emerge from brokenness. In those times when it seemed like it took forever for things to be accomplished, the tree taught me the patience of growing slowly and steadily, season by season. In a time when appearances were becoming the measure of worth, the tree taught me that a sound structure [roots, trunk and branches] made everything else possible. I came to hold that tree in awe and reverence.

We ignore the hidden wisdom of creation at our peril. In the first place we have to remember that, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." [Psalm 24:1] That the Lord is mindful of mortals should evoke from us Psalms of gratitude and a commitment to responsible stewardship of the earth. The discipline of ecology has offered ample evidence, and warning, that what we do to the earth affects the whole of creation. Further, when Jesus invited us to 'consider the lilies of the field,' and asserted that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of them [Matthew 6:28-29], he was reminding us that what we build is held to creation's standard of beauty. That we would tolerate ugliness in our buildings and developments and squalor in our cities is an affront to the stewardship God has entrusted to us.

Someone has said that the story of humanity in scripture begins in a garden and ends in a city. It is a city which is so beautiful that the kings of earth must defer to it. In the midst of the city is 'the river of the water of life,' and on the banks of the river is 'the tree of life,' offering its fruit for food and its leaves for healing. [Revelation 22:1-2] Here is combined the promise of eternity and the hidden wisdom of creation.

From the beginning we have been called to look deeply at what God has created. It is the source of our life and to us has been entrusted the responsibility care for it. In Christ we have received a new standard for how we live, new criterion for how we treat one another, new ways to measure beauty and assess our achievements. Let us then offer our awe and reverence to God who is the source of the hidden wisdom of creation.

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Return Service Requested